

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. I, Ronell A. Parker, a United States Postal Inspector currently assigned in Charlotte, North Carolina, am tasked with investigating various offenses, including use of the U.S. Mail to transmit controlled substances in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841. I have been so employed since 2004. I completed a twelve week basic training course at the United States Postal Inspection Service (“USPIS”) Training Academy in Potomac, Maryland. Through investigations and training, I have become familiar with the methods and techniques employed by individuals committing financial fraud, narcotics smuggling and money laundering of illicit proceeds, as well, as other law violations.
2. On October 05, 2020, a Priority Mail parcel bearing USPS tracking number 9505 5132 8192 0279 3862 58 (hereafter, “the Suspect Parcel”) was entered into the mail stream in North Carolina. The Suspect Parcel was addressed to “K. Azpuru, 22647 Ventura Blvd. #600, Woodland Hills, CA 91364.”
3. On October 06, 2020, Postal Inspectors in Charlotte, North Carolina, found the Suspect Parcel to be suspicious and contacted K9 Officer Cerdan of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD), for further investigation.
4. On October 05, 2020, I attempted to verify the information provided on the Priority Mail Express parcel label by using law enforcement search databases. I was able to determine the sender’s name is not associated with the address. Further, the recipient’s name is not associated with the recipient address.
5. The Suspect Parcel is described as follows:
  - A. Addressed to: “K. Azpuru, 22647 Ventura Blvd. #600, Woodland Hills, CA 91364”
  - B. From: “A. Alvaranga, 1707 Pergola Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213”
  - C. Size: approximately: 11.25”X 8.75” X 6”
  - D. Weight: approximately: 5 pounds, 8.50 ounces

- E. Postage affixed: \$15.05
  - F. Physical description: USPS Priority Mail parcel displaying USPS tracking number 9505 5132 8192 0279 3862 58
6. The size, shape, and weight of the parcel are consistent with those that, in my training and experience, contain cash money. Based on my training and experience, I am aware that those who use the U.S. Mail to distribute controlled substances often demand payment in advance, prior to shipping the controlled substances.
7. I am aware, through my training and experience, that people who utilize the U.S. Mail to distribute controlled substances and their proceeds commonly use fictitious names and addresses in an attempt to avoid detection by law enforcement agencies. I am also aware, through training and experience, that California is a known source area for narcotics.
8. I am aware, also through training and experience, that people often use the U.S. Mail, specifically Express and Priority Mail, for the delivery of controlled substances for various reasons, some of which are listed below:
- A. Items sent via Express and Priority Mail are considered to be First-Class Mail. Therefore, these items cannot be examined without a federal search warrant.
  - B. Express and Priority Mail are generally expected to be delivered in one to three days. This assures the sender of expedited delivery.
  - C. Various dispatch times (times which a mailed item is transported to the next destination) are available to customers upon request and provide the sender an opportunity to have some control as to the arrival of the mailed item.
  - D. Individuals desiring to either send or receive controlled substances and payments for these substances through the U.S. Mail can do so without having to provide identification. This reduces the possibility of revealing their true identity.
9. On October 06, 2020, Drug K-9 Handler, Officer Cerdan, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, was contacted and asked to provide a drug detecting K-9. Officer Cerdan responded to the United States Postal Inspection Service, located in Charlotte, North Carolina, with drug detecting K-9 Cali on October 06, 2020.

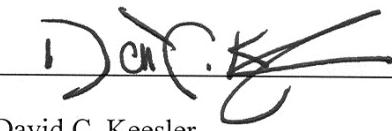
10. The Suspect Parcel was placed into a lineup. The Suspect Parcel was placed with four separate but similar control parcels at the United States Postal Inspection Service in Charlotte, North Carolina. I observed as K-9 Cali walked among the parcels. K-9 Cali alerted to the Suspect Parcel by sniffing the seams of the Suspect Parcel and responding passively by sitting next to the Suspect Parcel, which is his signal to indicate the scent of a controlled substance. The examination took place at 11:47 a.m. on October 06, 2020.
11. Narcotics Detection K-9 Cali was certified by the National Police Canine Association on July 27, 2018. K-9 Cali was again certified by the National Canine association on October 29, 2018 and November 4, 2019, which utilized two non-CMPD affiliated certifying officials. K-9 Cali was certified after locating drugs hidden in vehicles and building interiors. K-9 Cali has been trained and certified to detect the odor of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. During the last several months, Cali was allowed to sniff numerous parcels and suitcases while at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. When K-9 Cali alerts on the parcel or suitcases, controlled substances have been located and seized on an overwhelming majority of occasions. Officer Cerdan continues to conduct additional training in order to maintain Cali's proficiency.
12. In my training and experience, cash used to purchase controlled substances is usually kept within close proximity of the controlled substances themselves. As such, it is common for residue from the controlled substances to be found on the cash, providing an odor detectable to trained K-9s, such as Cali.
13. Based on the above facts, I believe that probable cause exists that the Suspect Parcel contains evidence of a crime, contraband, fruits, or other items illegally possessed, or property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841. As such, I respectfully request that a Search Warrant be issued for the Suspect Parcel.

/S/ Ronell A. Parker  
Ronell A. Parker

U.S. Postal Inspector

In accordance with Rule 4.1(b)(2)(A), the Affiant attested under oath to the contents of this Affidavit, which was submitted to me by reliable electronic means, on this 7th day of October, 2020, at 6:00 PM.

Signed: October 7, 2020

  
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David C. Keesler  
United States Magistrate Judge

